

BOOK REVIEW

CHRISTINE PADOCH and NANCY LEE PELUSO, eds. 1996. **Borneo in Transition: People, Forests, Conservation and Development**. (ISBN 967-65-3110-3 (hbk). Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 800-451-7556. \$55.00. 291 pp, tables, figures, maps.

This book is a collection of papers resulting from a symposium "Interactions of People and Forests in Kalimantan" held at the New York Botanical Garden in 1991. Despite being published some five years after the event, the 17 papers contained therein have not lost their timeliness, and are synthesized by an excellent introductory chapter by Padoch and Peluso. The book is composed of three sections: I) Introduction to Conservation and Development Issues and the Role of Research, II) Local Transformations in Forest Use and Forest Rights, and III) Case-Studies in Resource Management.

The first section contains five papers that explain the current development of Borneo within the context of Indonesia, Malesia as a whole, and SE Asia. Of these, the chapter by Potter on forest degradation is particularly illuminating and logically outlines what the conservation situation was on the island (prior to El Niño-1998), although the debt for nature swap, *sensu* Potter, is an extremely controversial concept.

The second section is focused to development on a local level and its effects on the forest, its people, and their sociology. It was interesting to note that Map 9.2 (p. 140) in Ngo's article, showing the migratory direction of the Kayan in Kalimantan, lies along the continental divide (and the Sarawak Border) and is immediately adjacent to (east of) and slightly overlapping with, the area surveyed by Burley in Chapter 5. Chapter 8, by Peluso and Padoch, is a cogent analysis of how two Dyak villages have changed with development, and contains a new hypothesis regarding changes in "distribution and economic importance of particular crops and technologies" as the impetus behind changes in resource management and rights. It includes extensive footnotes and a bibliography, with a conclusion's section that pinpoints the areas where further research is needed.

In the third part, Peters (Chapter 14), in his article on Illipe Nuts, has provided a model case (and I hope a rapidly adopted standard protocol) for the study of underexploited tropical crops. If data similar to that presented by Peters are combined with market data using the methodology in the following Chapter 14, by Leaman et al., a realistic estimation of a crop's potential can be calculated. Understanding the biology, and therefore, the likelihood of cultivation success for a given crop, combined with its relative "competitive fitness" against other crops simultaneously available in the market, would be a desirable formula to guide local communities in preferential resource allocations.

In summary, this book provides not only information pertinent to Borneo, but also contains papers with protocols worthy of becoming standards for their respective fields, concomitant with rich bibliographies. I think every conservationist, economic botanist, sustainable development specialist, and resource manager should have a copy.—*John J. Pipoly III*